

**PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE
DECEMBER 6TH, 2011**

SIGN IN

**VIRGIL KAMBARIAN
JUDY WHITAKER
PAUL JACKSTADT
GERALD WILLIAMS
DON THOMPSON
BOB SHIPLEY
SCOTT ONEY
GAIL VALLE
GREATHOUSE BROTHERS
MARILYN AND EDWARD COULSON
LOUIS SIMPSON
DAN ANTONOVICH**

**MAYOR ED HAGNAUER
DAN MCDOWELL
JACK JENKINS
WALMER SCHMIDTKE
BRENDA WHITAKER
TIM LEVORIC
GENE HUDSON
MR. & MRS. GEROFF
JOE JUNEAU
STEVE WILLAREDT
CHAD TOENISKOETTER
MARE HUBER**

ALDERMAN KAMBARIAN CALLED THE PUBLIC HEARING TO ORDER.

KAMBARIAN ASKED IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A COMMENT OR ASK A QUESTION.

KAMBARIAN STATED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL HAS CHOSEN TO RAISE THE TAX LEVY. THE LEVY INCREASE WILL BE 17% TO THE PORTION THE TAX PAYER PAYS TO THE CITY, NOT THE TOTAL TAX BILL BUT ONLY THE PORTION PAID TO THE CITY.

KAMBARIAN STATED THAT THE CITY UNDER THE STATE LAW IS OBLIGATED TO FULLY FUND THE FIRE AND POLICE PENSIONS. KAMBARIAN STATED THAT THERE ARE NUMEROUS REASON WHY THE HAS NOT BEEN DONE, BUT IN THE YEAR 2016 THE CITY HAS TO FULLY FUND THE PENSION OR THE STATE WILL STEP IN. KAMBARIAN STATED THAT HE AND MAYOR HAGNAUER HAVE DONE MUCH MORE TO REMEDY THE PROBLEM THAN THE PREVIOUS COUNCILS. KAMBARIAN STATED THAT IN MARCH THE CITY WILL ASK THE CITIZENS IF THEY WANT TO CONTINUE TO FUND THE PENSION THREW THE REFERENDUM.

KAMBARIAN STATED THAT NUMBER ONE THE 17% TAX WILL ONLY BE THE TAX PORTION OWED TO THE CITY OF GRANITE CITY, AND THAT THIS HAS TO BE BECAUSE OF THE NEW LAW FUNDING PENSIONS.

KAMBARIAN STATED SECOND THE PEOPLE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE FOR OR AGAINST THE NONBINDING REFERENDUM IN MARCH.

KAMBARIAN STATED THE FOR A HOME ASSESSED AT \$100,000 THE TAX WOULD BE \$70 DOLLARS A YEAR.

KAMBARIAN STATED THAT HE BELIEVES IT IS EVERYONE'S CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY TO PAY TAXES. KAMBARIAN STATED THAT IT IS THE ALDERMAN'S OBLIGATION TO MAKE SURE THAT THOSE TAXES ARE FAIR AND REASONABLE.

KAMBARIAN STATED IF THE COUNCIL PASSES THIS WILL BE A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF WHAT WE NEED TO PUT IN THERE THIS YEAR, BUT WILL NEED MORE IF THE REFERENDUM IS PASSED FOR US TO BRING US UP TO THAT POINT FOR US TO FULLY FUND THESE TWO PENSIONS.

KAMBARIAN ASKED IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO COME UP AND MAKE A COMMENT OR ASK A QUESTION. NO COMMENTS.

KAMBARIAN STATED THAT THE CITY ONLY GETS 17CENTS PER EVERY TAX DOLLAR COLLECTED, AND WE PROVIDE FIRE, POLICE, STREETS, SEWER, INFRASTRUCTURE ALL THE THINGS THE CITY DOES. KAMBARIAN STATED THAT HE THINKS THAT THIS CITY COUNCIL HAS DONE AN EXCELLENT JOB IN OPTIMIZING AS MUCH AS WE CAN IN TERMS OF BEING EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE, BUT WE CAN ONLY DO SO MUCH WITH THE INCOME AND REVENUE THAT WE HAVE. KAMBARIAN STATED THAT THE CURRANT COUNCIL WANTS TO ASK THE TAX PAYER FOR MORE MONEY. KAMBARIAN STATED THAT IT IS OUR OBLIGATION AND RESPONSIBILITY TO SO.

KAMBARIAN ASKED AGAIN IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO COME UP AND MAKE A COMMENT OR ASK A QUESTION.

LOUIS SIMPSON ASKED THE QUESTION OF THE MONEY COLLECTED SO FAR WHERE HAVE THOSE MONIES GONE.

KAMBARIAN STATED THAT THIS IS WHAT THE BOARDS FIGURE UP WHAT WE ARE SUPPOSE TO GIVE THEM IT'S BASED ON TWO IDEAS, THAT 50% MUST GO IN GOVERNMENT BACKED SECURITIES, AND 50% CAN GO INTO STOCK MARKET, AND THEY ASSUME THAT IN THE FIXED INCOME THAT THEY CAN GET 7% FROM THE GOVERNMENT SECURITIES. KAMBARIAN STATED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHERE YOU CAN GET 7% TODAY, IF THERE SUCH A PLACE I WOULD BE RIGHT THERE LINED UP TO PUT MY MONEY TOMORROW MORNING. KAMBARIAN STATED THAT IT SIMPLY DOESN'T HAPPEN, THAT IS PART OF THE PROBLEM MUNICIPALITIES HAVE, THAT 7% IS PART OF THE BURDEN THE PENSION BOARD HAS. KAMBARIAN STATED THAT WE ARE NOT GOING TO MAKE THAT KIND OF MONEY IN GOVERNMENT BACKED SECURITIES. KAMBARIAN STATED THAT WHEN THIS 7% ISN'T MADE, THAT IS WHERE YOU ALL OF US HAVE TO MAKE UP THE DIFFERENCE.

CHAD TOENISKOETTER STATED THAT HE JUST WANTED TO REITERATE WHAT ALDERMAN KAMBARIAN SAID, THAT THESE ARE ALL STATE STATUTES THAT ALL CITIES HAVE TO FOLLOW.

KAMBARIAN STATED IF ANY HAS ANY QUESTION. NO QUESTIONS

MOTION BY WHITAKER, SECOND BY JACKSTADT TO ADJOURN. MOTION CARRIED.

MEETING ADJOURNED.